

A Regional Resilience Network for Preparedness and Recovery Planning in Louisiana and Mississippi

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Vision

 Launch a regional network of cross-sector partners across coastal Louisiana and Mississippi to engage communities in pursuing risk-wise strategies that increase the level of preparedness and resilience of vulnerable populations and the organizations that support them.

 Incorporate support staff from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, MS/AL Sea Grant and LA Sea Grant to facilitate exchange of information and resources regarding climate change.



Objectives

 Increase sharing of knowledge, information and resources around disaster preparedness and recovery between social-service agencies and other community players across the region

 Disseminate culturally appropriate information regarding hazards, vulnerabilities, and necessary preparedness actions through trusted community sources (community stakeholders).

Objectives

- Facilitate recovery planning across the region amongst non-profits, businesses, government, faith based and other community stakeholders
 - Primarily focused on social-service agencies working with vulnerable populations
- Increase organizational disaster preparedness for individual network members by using the American Red Cross Ready RatingTM program



Using Networks to Engage Communities

March 2012 Version



Guidebook on Creating Resilience Networks

Draft - March 28, 2012

Network Definition

- A network is an interconnected group of individuals who come together around a common issue
 - Community partners identify, prioritize and act on specific issues



ARC Community Resilience Strategy

- Focused on 3 main areas that impact the resilience of a community and coincide with ARC work:
 - **Community Preparedness:**
 - ✓ the ability to prepare for disaster response and long term recovery at the community level
 - **Community Competence:**
 - ✓ the ability of a community to think critically, problem-solve, form
 working partnerships and collectively take action to address issues.
 - ➤ Social Capital:
 - ✓ the organizational linkages, cooperation among community segments, citizen participation, local leadership, and sense of community that make up the social support mechanisms in a community.



Why Networks?

- No individual agency has the capacity, expertise or reach to affect change across every community sector.
- Provide ways for people to connect and take action on collaborative community projects
- Create a structure for organizations and individuals to share
 - **Ownership**
 - Knowledge
 - > Responsibility
 - **Common Goals**



Building a Network

1. Understand the Community

- Community assessments
 - Demographic information
 - Individual interviews with key stakeholders and or facilitating group discussions
 - ✓ Identify issues, culture, other stakeholders
- Build trust
- 2. Craft Solutions and Take Action Together
 - Network takes ownership of action when members are part of decision making progress
- 3. Monitor Progress
- 4. Reassess Goals and Move Forward



Red Cross Roles in Convening Networks

- Facilitator
- Resource Broker
- Subject Matter Expert/Preparedness Champion
- Convener/Catalyst
 - **≻**Community trust
 - Community involvement
 - Community connections



Challenges

- Change takes time
 - Development of trust and common understanding must occur before meaningful work can be done
- Diverse cultures
 - Not all communities understand or receive information in the same way
- Collaboration involves risk
 - Reputation of organizations
 - Sharing of valuable and/or limited resources



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